Legislation to regulate T.V. channels and information media

334. SHRI MANOHAR JOSHI: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to enact a legislation to regulate the working of T.V. channels and information media;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government have taken note of the massive intrusion of media in the privacy of individuals and other entities under the facade of investigative journalism; and

(d) if so, the action taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI PRIYARANJAN DASMUNSI): (a) and (b) The Ministry of Information and Broadcasting is considering a proposed Broadcasting Services Regulation Bill in consultation with the concerned Ministries. A need has also been felt to consult the media in the matter.

(c) and (d) In so far as the print media are concerned, all such allegations of intrusion of the privacy of individuals would be considered by the Press Council of India, which is an independent body over which Government does not exercise control. Moreover, this issue is regulated on the basis of code of journalistic ethics. In so far as electronic media are concerned, such a specific code has not been formulated. The Government has set up a committee to formulate a programme code based upon the concept of self regulation by TV channels.

Increasing vulgarity and violence in T.V. channels

†335. SHRI JANESHWAR MISHRA: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have made any plan to curb competition amongst private TV and news channels;

(b) whether in order to check increasing vulgarity and violence any code of conduct is proposed;

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the measures to be taken by Government to curb vulgarity and violence?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI PRIYARANJAN DASMUNSI): (a) No, Sir.

(b) to (d) Yes, Sir. The Government constituted a Committee to review the Programme Code and Advertising Code prescribed under the Cable Television Networks (Regulation) Act, 1995 and rules framed thereunder and the Guidelines for certification of films prescribed under the Cinematograph Act, 1952. The Committee has been given a mandate to prepare a draft Broadcast Code. This covers subjects like obscenity, superstition, telecast of films, violence, sex, religion, etc.

Film on Uttaranchal Janandolan

†336. SHRI HARISH RAWAT: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether documentary/telefilm/feature films produced in public interest and on subjects related to national glory are being broadcast by Prasar Bharati at Government level;

(b) if so, whether Government have received any application from Nanda Devi Films regarding Documentary Film "Uttaranchal Ka Janandolan" made in public interest and on national glory;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether the Film Division provided technical facilities and separate budget provision for "The Making of Uttaranchal" in the year 2000; and

(e) if so, whether documentary film "Uttaranchal Ka Janandolan" passed by the Central Film Certification Board would also be given financial assistance on same lines?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI PRIYARANJAN DASMUNSI): (a) Yes, Sir. Prasar Bharati has

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